

Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00
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DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:JBROH-KAHN:BA
APPROVED BY HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN
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-----088080 040137Z /13

P 032310Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196687

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: SWEDISH ACCEPTANCE OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: STOCKHOLM 2905

1. DEPT IS REPEATING TO GENEVA REFTEL DESCRIBING SWEDISH REASSESSMENT OF ITS REFUGEE POLICIES FOLLOWING A RECENT VISIT TO STOCKHOLM OF UNHCR. REFTEL NOTES THAT SWEDES WOULD NOT TAKE A FIXED QUOTA OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES FOR RESETTLEMENT, SINCE THEY FELT THAT BECAUSE OF CLIMATE AND TEMPERAMENT INDOCHINESE WOULD HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME ADJUSTING IN SWEDEN. MOREOVER, SWEDES PREFER TO FILL ANNUAL REFUGEE QUOTA OF 1,250 CASES WITH LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL REFUGEES. THE SWEDES, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER CASES OF UNUSUAL HARDSHIP; I.E., THOSE WHO FOR SOME SPECIAL REASON COULD NOT BE RESETTLED ELSEWHERE.
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SWEDES INDICATED THAT SUCH CASES SHOULD BE REFERRED BY UNHCR REP IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TO UNHCR IN GENEVA, WHICH SHOULD THEN CONTACT SWEDISH AUTHORITIES IN GENEVA.

2. GENEVA SHOULD ENCOURAGE UNHCR TO PRESENT THE SWEDES A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF SUCH CASES FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA. OF COURSE, MANY INDOCHINESE REFUGEES ARE NOT BEING RESETTLED

ELSEWHERE SIMPLY BECAUSE MAJOR COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN

ACCEPTING INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, U.S., AUSTRALIA AND FRANCE,
ARE NOT ABLE TO ACCEPT AS MANY AS ARE ARRIVING IN COUNTRIES
OF TEMPORARY ASYLUM. OBVIOUSLY, SWEDES WANT A MORE
LIMITED SAMPLE TO CHOSE FROM. THEY MIGHT BE PRESSED TO
ACCEPT UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AMONG THE BOAT REFUGEES WHO
ARE NOT NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR RESETTLEMENT IN AUSTRALIA
OR U.S., AND CASES WHERE REFUGEES' PHYSICAL CONDITION PRE-
CLUDES ADMISSION UNDER THE INA. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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